Commercial production of oil in Barmer Basin

3284. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government recently gave its go-ahead to Cairn for executing its Field Development Plan (FDP) in the highly prospective Rajasthan basin (block RJ-ON-91/1) so as to enable the company to initiate work on Rs. 3,800 crore plan for Mangala, Aishwariya, Saraswati and Raageshwari fields in the Barmer districts;

(b) what is the likely Production of Oil Per Day (POPD) and in million metric standards cubic feet per day (MMSCFD) of natural gas indicating how this natural gas will be used; and

(c) by when, Cairn energy, will start commerical production of oil in Barmer Basin?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In the block RJ-On-90/1 (not the block RJ-ON-91/1) located in the Barmer district of Rajasthan, Cairn Energy India Pty. Ltd., the operator, has submitted Field Development Plan (FDP) in respect of four commercial discoveries namely Mangala, Aishwariya, Saraswati and Raageshwari. The FDP is yet to be approved.

(b) The FDP submitted by the operator envisages peak oil production @ approximately 112,000 Barrels per day and gas production at approximately 19 MMSCFD. The gas produced would be consumed for internal use.

(c) The commerical production from Barmer basin is likely to start by late 2008.

GAIL's MoU with Chinese firms

3285. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that GAIL has signed MoUs with three Chinese firms;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this cooperation help to bridge the gap in oil gas sector in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During the visit of the Indian delegation led by the then Minister (P&NG) to Beijing,